

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respond herein to the Office Action of March 21, 2007.

Claims 1-19 were rejected in the Office Action. Applicants amended Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16-17 and 19, canceled Claims 7, 9 and 18, and respectfully request a reconsideration of the rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 14 and 16-18 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flemming et al (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0025312). Claims 3, 6, 13, 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flemming et al.

Claim 1, as amended, recites an internally cooled strand-guiding roll having a central rotatable shaft, a roll shell fixedly positioned around the shaft and a water guide ring placed between an inner surface of the roll shell and the shaft. To accomplish cooling of the strand-guiding roll, coolant is supplied into coolant passages of the roll shell from a coolant line of the central shaft through radial branch coolant lines passing through the water guide ring.

Flemming discloses a casting roll for use in a twin roll casting machine to convert liquid steel to a cast strip between the two disclosed casting rolls. The casting roll includes the roll shell 5 and water guide rings 6 and 7. However, the water guide rings of Flemming are positioned at the side-end faces of the roll shell 5 and not between the inner surface of the roll shell and the central shaft. Further, the alternative embodiment of Flemming shown in Fig. 2 discloses a coolant line 19 passing through the shaft 17 and radial channels 18 connecting the coolant line 19 with the cooling channels 8 of the roll shell. However, radial channels 18 do not pass through the water guide rings, as required by the amended Claim 1. In fact, Fig. 2 of Flemming does not show any water guide rings.

Based on the foregoing amendments and discussion, Flemming does not disclose or suggest the limitations of current Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. Moreover, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-17 and 19 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-17 and 19 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 and, further on their own merits.

Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested and believed to be fully warranted.

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Respectfully submitted,



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